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~~FILE~~

*Jon Howe's files*

**(B)**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1972

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Dear President Thieu:

I want you to know that in this moment of great trial for the Vietnamese people, you have my fullest support as President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces.

Hanoi's invasion across the provisional demarcation line of 1954 is a flagrant and outrageous violation of both the Geneva Accords of 1954 and the 1968 understandings which led to the cessation of bombardments and all other acts involving the use of force by the United States against North Vietnam.

You can be sure that the United States stands fully behind the heroic efforts of your people in the defense of their homeland. I can assure you that in the days and weeks ahead we will not hesitate to take whatever added military steps are necessary to support the intense and valiant struggle in which your country is now engaged. We cannot allow Hanoi's intensified and blatant aggression to go unpunished.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my continuing and profound admiration for the leadership you are providing your people in these moments of difficulty and the bravery they have shown in resisting Hanoi's attacks. I am

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confident that with our assistance you will succeed in overcoming the present threat posed by Hanoi's forces to your people and that ultimately we will achieve our mutual goal of a just and lasting peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Nixon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

His Excellency  
Nguyen Van Thieu  
President of the Republic  
of Vietnam

SECRET 061140Z APR 72 VIA CAS CHANNELS (BUNKER)  
FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER SAIGON 0057 IMMEDIATE  
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

1. I DELIVERED THE PRESIDENT'S FINE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT THIEL TODAY. HE WAS, OF COURSE, EXTREMELY PLEASED BY IT AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION. I AM CERTAIN THIS WILL GIVE HIM GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT.
2. WARM REGARDS.

SECRET

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RECEIVED  
WHCA

HAG  
HICKS  
LORD